Another major demand made by Shri Nayak related to the lowering of minimum percentage of marks at the Marters level from 55 per cent to 50 per cent. for appearing in the NET.

Shri Nayak was assured by the Chairperson of the UGC that the above matter would be considered by the Commission in its meeting to be held on 14-2-1995 and appropriate decisions in this regard would be taken. Despite this, Shri Nayak went on indefinite fast w.e.f. 13-2-1995 in support of his demands.

The UGC in its meeting dated 14-2-1995 considered the abovementioned demands regarding NET in the light of Supreme Court decision dated 8-9-1994 upholding the UGC Regulation on NET and took the following decisions:—

(i) Relaxation for M.Phil|Ph.D. degree holders who required M. Phil by 31-12-1992, or submitted Ph.D. thesis by 31.12.1993, has already been granted. The UGC did not consider further extension desirable.

(ii) Exemption in the case of permanent Lecturers appointed prior to the revision of pay scales has already been granted in February, 1994. Exemption may also be granted to persons working against permanent posts from a date prior to 19 September, 1991 i.e. the date of enforcement of UGC Regulation on NET;

(iii) Temporary Lecturers appointed prior to the enforcement of the UGC Regulations on NET may be exempted from the NET, provided that their appointmant was made on the recommdaton of a duly constituted Selection Committee;

(iv) Exemption in the case of adhoc appointees was not considered desirable by he UGC;

(v) For posts in subjects for which UGC|CSIR may not be holding NET, prior approval of the Commission may be obtained in individual cases;

(vi) As regards reduction of qualifying percentage of marks at the Masters level from 55 per cent to 50 per cent, the UGC decided that exemption could be given only for; (a) persons, who had cleared the UGC|CSIR eligibility prior to the enforcement of UGC Regulation on NET, when the minimum qualifying marks to 50 per cent; (b) SC|ST candidates with the prior approval of the Commission, in case sufficient number of SC|ST candidates with 55 per cent marks were not available for reserved seats; and (c) persons regularly appointed through duly constituted Selection Committee and wroking as Lecturers from a date prior to the enforcement of UGC Regulation tn NET. The Commission did not favour relaxation of the minimum percentage for all Ph.D.|M.Phil degree holders who acquired such degrees upto 12-5-93, as proposed by the Delhi University.

Water Scarcity

*169. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the "Economic Times" of 22nd February, 1995 under the caption "Non-Government Organisation predicts water scarcity by 2025";

(b) if so, whether Government agreed with the perception;

(c) whether some comprehensive study team has been conducted by Government on the subject;

(d) if so, what are its findings and whether any long term plan has been formulated to meet the water requirements of the nation over a long period;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) As per the 1991 census, the population of the country is around 846 million and it is increasing @ 2.41 per cent p.a. The average annual availability of water resources potential has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic metres. However, the utilisable water resources of the country have been assessed as 1142 billion cubic metres (BCM). Thus the average per capita availability of water at present is estimated as 1360 cubic metres which is likely to decline further with the growth of population. There is, however, a wide variation of availability of water in the different river basins of the country and the scarcity of water is limited only to the areas in the water short basins.

Keeping in view the future needs of water, the Government has taken various policy and programme initiatives. These include adoption of National Water Policy in September, 1987 and preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas.

The National Water Policy broadly covers policy directions in elements like:

(i) Information System.

(ii) Maximising availability through adopting integrated basin planning and management approach, inter-basin transfer of water and recycling and re-use of water.

(iii) Ground water development including conjunctive use of surface and ground water and regulaiton of ground water extraction.

(iv) Water allocation priorities.

(v) Adoption of modern irrigation water management practices including command area development approach and promotion of efficient irrigation methods like drip and sprinkler systems.

(vi) Ratianalising water rates to convey the scarcity and economic value of water.

(vii) Promotion of participatory management of Irrigation systems.

(viii) Creating awareness about various aspects of water related issues by way of training, demonstration, adoptive trials etc.

(ix) Intensification of Research and Development efforts, and

(x) Proper maintenance and modernisation of irrigation systems.

Further to National Water Policy, the following policy documents have been prepared:

(a) Draft Irrigation Management Policy.

(b) An approach to organisational and procedural changes in irrigation sector;

(c) Draft Water Informaiton Bill.

(d) Draft National Policy guidelines for water allocation of inter-State rivers amongst States.

(e) Draft Policy note on setting up of River Basin Organisations.

(f) Guidelines for planning conjunctive use of surface and gruond water in irrigation projects.

These policy measures are intended to improve the availability of utilisable water.

Habitat Centre

*170. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge public funds have been made available to the Indian Habitat Centre by the Union Government and its Undertaking;

(b) what is the amount so far made available and what commitments still remain to be fulfilled;